UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/48
15 January 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 14 January 1999, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

Annex

Letter dated 14 January 1999 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1088 (1996), I attach the monthly report on the operations of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) (see appendix). I would appreciate your making the present report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA

Appendix

Report to the Security Council on the operations of the Stabilization Force

1. During the reporting period (18 November to 17 December 1998), there were on average approximately 32,500 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia with contributions from all the nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and from 20 non-NATO countries. The number of non-NATO troop-contributing nations declined to 19 during December.

2. Over the reporting period, the Stabilization Force (SFOR) continued to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance by means of ground and air patrols. Combat aircraft flew 107 hours and the SFOR helicopter fleet flew over 103 hours.

3. The Force continues to monitor crossing points on the border with the Federation Republic of Yugoslavia, to inspect government-owned factories and weapon storage sites in order to help ensure compliance with the prohibition on the transport of weapons established by Security Council resolution 1160 (1998).

4. SFOR forces continued to secure the Srpska Radio Television transmission tower at Trebevic.

5. SFOR acted in support of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) with the detention on 2 December 1998 of General Radislav Krstic, Commander of the V Corps, Bosnian Serb Army. Support was also provided to ICTY's programme of investigations and exhumations.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

6. During the reporting period, the Entity Armed Forces remained substantially compliant with the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement. However, SFOR executed an operation in the Stolac area against illegal arms trafficking from 26 November to 8 December and supported the International Police Task Force inspections of a series of local police buildings on 14 and 15 December, during which weapons and ammunition were confiscated. There were also confrontations between police from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Martin Brod area.

7. The Republica Srpska Specialist Police remain compliant with the Peace Agreement. On 2 December, a 3-month policeman-technician course under the auspices of the authorities of the Republica Srpska controlled by the International Police Task Force in Doboj Police Academy with 350 attendees, among them 154 Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade officers. SFOR will continue to monitor the RSSP until they can be certified as falling under Annex 11 of the Peace Agreement. This process is estimated to be completed by May 1999.

8. There are no significant issues to report regarding the restrictions on freedom of movement during the period and no checkpoints were dismantled

either by SFOR or by the International Police Task Force. The entities remain fully compliant.

9. Over the reporting period, SFOR carried out a total of 289 military weapons storage site inspections: 68 Bosniac; 47 Bosnian Croat; 48 Federation; and 126 Bosnian Serb. No major discrepancies were reported. To date, the Entity Armed Forces have closed 72 per cent of those sites required to be closed between 10 June 1998 and 28 February 1999. There remain 42 sites due for closure. The final consolidation period ends on 28 February 1999.

10. SFOR also monitored 942 training and movement activities over the reporting period: 173 Bosniac; 48 Bosnian Croat; 156 Federation; and 565 Bosnian Serb. However, due to non-compliance, training and movement bans were imposed on a number of units during this period. The ban imposed on the Police Anti-Terrorist Brigade of the Republica Srpska Specialist Police remains in effect until further notice.

11. During the period, SFOR monitored 645 mine clearance operations by the Entity Armed Forces who remain fully compliant with mine clearing. SFOR conducted 259 de-mining operations removing a total of 61 devices (51 anti-personnel mines and 10 items of unexploded ordnance) from 7,489 square metres of land. The total number of all categories of mines cleared by SFOR since March 1998 is 29,067 from 127,665 square metres of land. Owing to weather conditions and a lack of de-mining insurance, this period constitutes the last for mine clearance operations until February or March 1999. The de-miners of the Entity Armed Forces have commenced their winter de-mining training campaign, which includes equipment maintenance and the reduction in field fortifications and landmine stockpiles.

12. Joint Military Commission meetings continue. A declaration of support by the Entity Armed Forces for the voluntary gathering of illegal weapons and explosives and the storage of ammunition and explosives was welcomed at a meeting in December.

Cooperation with international institutions

13. Within capabilities, SFOR continued to provide assistance to international organizations, including the Office of the High Representative, the World Bank, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the United Nations Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) including the International Police Task Force.

14. SFOR is also assisting the efforts of the Office of the High Representative to open airfields and facilitate civil air operations. Site surveys of the four international airports of Sarajevo, Mostar, Banja Luka and Tuzla are being conducted in order to provide correct and updated geographic coordinates, obstacle charts and approach procedures.

Outlook

15. The arrival of refugees from Kosovo in Bosnia and Herzegovina has added to the humanitarian problems in the country. The forthcoming arbitration of Brcko may have an effect on the security situation. Sporadic acts of intimidation and violence towards displaced persons and refugees are expected to continue.